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fore, according to anarchists, is the inevitable end of the present drift and tendency of things. Trimmers may devise means to put it off; Napoleons and Bismarcks may, for a time, stifle it in blood, but the longer it is deferred, the more violent will be the reaction which brings it in at last. That only is wise statesmanship which gives up moribund institutions to die. That only is reform which anticipates in a less painful manner the work of revolution.

C. L. JAMES.

IV.

MR. EATON'S NOVEL LAW PROPOSITION.

IN reply to a Senator who had asserted that the office of the Presidency was simply executive, Mr. Dorman B. Eaton, in the June number of the *NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, declares with much emphasis that the Constitution confers upon the President "one-third of the law-making authority." This is certainly a novel proposition in constitutional law. If a measure should lack one vote of having a majority in either House of Congress, would Mr. Eaton contend that the President could possibly make it a law? And, in regard to the effect of a veto, the object of which is to *prevent* and not to make legislation, how can one-third of the members of each House ever be required to counteract it? The least number of members able to pass a bill is a majority of those voting. If the President should veto it, two-thirds would become necessary. Clearly, then, the maximum number required to overcome the veto is not one-third but one-sixth.

If Mr. Eaton so largely overstates the powers of the Presidential office, because it is held by Mr. Cleveland, his course is quite in line with many things that have been said and done within two years by those who in politics are making use of the advertising methods which Mr. Barnum has applied with such eminent success in the show business. Having exhausted all the resources of praise upon the person of the President, it appears that it has become necessary to exaggerate the prerogatives of his office. If, on the other hand, Mr. Eaton's assertion is made in the heat of an argument over a great constitutional principle, why does he direct it at anything so petty and irresponsible as a person "representing but in half part a state in a body which has but two-thirds of one-half of the sum of the law-making authority?" Why does he not choose a far more shining mark—a magistrate who, in addition to the powers of the Executive of the nation, wields the legislative power of more than "twenty-five Senators and one hundred and eighteen members of the House" combined? For we believe it was Mr. Cleveland who first discovered and promulgated the doctrine that his high office was "essentially executive." If that office is so great that the legislative powers claimed by Mr. Eaton do not constitute an "essential" function of it, then our Presidency can be nothing less than an elective dictatorship. In regard to removals from office, Mr. Eaton sets forth a record, which, taken with some facts which he does not state, clearly sustains his assertion that the President "has made a more heroic struggle than all his predecessors together," but it is *not* so clear that the struggle has been made entirely against the spoils system.

SAMUEL W. MCCALL.